UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/AC.241/WG.II(X)/L.5/Rev.1
16 January 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN
THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS
DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION,
PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
Tenth session
New York, 6-17 January 1997
Agenda item 2

PREPARATION FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of Working Group II

Committee on Science and Technology: preparatory measures to put in hand work on networking of institutions, agencies and bodies

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Recalling the requirements of article 25 of the Convention,

Taking note of the report contained in document A/AC.241/66,

Requests the interim secretariat to solicit proposals, in accordance with the draft terms of reference contained in annex I to this decision, from the indicative list of competent organizations in annex II to undertake the survey and evaluation referred to in article 25 of the Convention of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies willing to become units of a network that shall support the implementation of the Convention,

Further requests the interim secretariat to arrange for the circulation of the executive summaries of the proposals referred to in paragraph 3 of the draft terms of reference prior to the first session of the Conference of the Parties,

Recommends that the Committee on Science and Technology:

(a) Shall, at its first session, review the draft terms of reference and make appropriate recommendations to the Conference of the Parties for their adoption, and

(b) Shall, having duly considered these proposals, recommend the most suitable contractor for consideration and approval by the Conference of the Parties at its first session.

ANNEX I

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE AND PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK TO BE UNDERTAKEN ON NETWORKING OF INSTITUTIONS, AGENCIES AND BODIES

1. Phases

Recognizing that a complete inventory and evaluation of all networks, institutions, agencies and bodies will be a lengthy process, it is proposed that the work plan of the survey and evaluation activity of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) will need to be broken into three phases (document A/AC.241/66, para. 7), namely:

(a) Identification of the principal potential units, particularly networks;

(b) A pilot, in-depth survey and evaluation of potential units in a particular region and subregion; and

(c) Replication of the pilot survey and evaluation of units in other regions and subregions.

In all three phases, the units surveyed and evaluated will include governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental, academic and other private sector entities. Pursuant to the proposed programme of work outlined above, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee seeks proposals for services from a competent contractor to carry out the preliminary survey and evaluation of "potential units, particularly existing networks" and to suggest a methodology for carrying out the second and third phases, for consideration at the first session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

2. Tasks expected to be completed by the contractor

(a) Identify the principal existing networks relevant to the effort to combat desertification and their role in areas such as information collection and exchange, research, technology transfer, benchmarks and indicators, capacity-building, policy formulation and local level activities;

(b) Describe the actual components (including structure, mode of operation and willingness and capacity to contribute to the work of the Convention) as well as categories of users, and map their geographical distributions;

(c) Enumerate the information needs of actual and potential users and the extent to which such needs are being met in relation to the provision of articles 16 to 19 of the Convention;

(d) Identify and describe the linkages among the principal networks, including gaps and possible overlaps;

(e) Elaborate the purposes, methods and benefits of strengthening networks at various levels;

(f) Develop criteria by which institutions, agencies and networks will be evaluated in terms of their capacity and effectiveness in contributing to the implementation of the Convention;

(g) Suggest:

(i) Methods and candidate regions and subregions for in-depth pilot surveys;

(ii) A practical cost-effective methodology to permit the CST to update the inventory of networks on a regular basis;

(iii) A strategy by which a global network of networks, institutions, agencies, and bodies can be established for the purpose of supporting implementation of the Convention.

3. Solicitation of bids from organizations

Immediately following the tenth session of the Committee, the interim secretariat shall invite competent organizations such as those indicated in annex II to submit proposals to carry out phase 1 activities. The proposals, which can come either from an organization individually, or from two or more organizations jointly, must be received by the interim secretariat by 15 May 1997. Each proposal must be accompanied by an executive summary not exceeding six pages in length. Copies of the complete proposals will be available to the members of the Committee on Science and Technology on request.

4. Draft contract

The interim secretariat will prepare a draft contract for consideration and approval by the first session of the Conference of the Parties, upon recommendation of the Committee on Science and Technology.

ANNEX II

LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS

Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD), Damascus

China National Center for Research and Development and Desertification Control, Beijing

Desert Research Centre, Cairo

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome

Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Djibouti

International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), Paris

International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad

International Development Research Centre, Ottawa

International Soil Science Society, Vienna

Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), Ouagadougou

Sahara and Sahel Observatory, Paris

United Nations Development Programme, New York

United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi

University of Arizona, Tucson

World Meteorological Organization, Geneva